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Our results agree entirely with those of MacDougall. Discussion of their significance may well be postponed until the completion of an investigation, now in progress, of the relations of age and physiological rhythms to time estimation.

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING A  
NEW MERCURY MINERAL FROM  
TERLINGUA, TEXAS.

THE mercury minerals of the Terlingua district, Texas, are noted for the unusual composition of several of their number. Besides cinnabar, calomel and mercuric oxide, two oxychlorides, eglestonite and terlinguaite, have been described in detail by Professor A. J. Moses (A. J. S. 166, 253, 1903), and a third, as yet unnamed, has been provisionally identified by him as likewise an oxychloride. This last, the No. 5 of Professor Moses, seems to be the chief mineral in a number of specimens from the Terlingua District lately received for identification from Mr. H. W. Turner. Its examination reveals a composition most singular and apparently representative of a class of compounds hitherto unknown in nature, viz.: mercur-ammonium salts. So far as yet known, the qualitative composition is represented by the components Hg, N, Cl, SO<sub>4</sub>, probably O and possibly H. The tests, both qualitative and quantitative, thus far made, seem to show with little room for doubt that the mercury and nitrogen form the mercur-ammonium radical. Dr. P. G. Nutting, of the Bureau of Standards, has kindly examined spectroscopically the products of progressive heating of the mineral under reduced pressure; and besides nitrogen, mercury, chlorine and sulphur, obtained a small amount of helium. Singularly enough, this last seemed to come off wholly during the first warming of the mineral and before it underwent any visible breaking-up.

The complete examination of this novel mineral and its associated mercury compounds will probably consume much time. In order to reserve the field for the chemical

examination by myself and the crystallographical (now in progress) by Mr. W. T. Schaller, this preliminary announcement is made.

W. F. HILLEBRAND.

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
December 14, 1905.

QUOTATIONS.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION.

IN the December *Popular Science Monthly* Professor John J. Stevenson again takes up the question of the status of American college professors, maintaining that the present tendency to subordinate them to the trustees and to the president is contrary to the real interests of educational progress. The trustees are successful men of business or professional life for the most part, with neither the time nor the expert knowledge necessary to administer wisely the internal affairs of an institution of learning. The president, once a good professor as well, must now be a successful business manager and money-getter, teaching little if at all, and, like the trustees, possessing neither the time nor the knowledge requisite to the sagacious exercise of the powers which are generally either sought by him or thrust into his hands under existing conditions. The trustees, then, should confine themselves strictly to the management of the property and the task of securing funds for the carrying out of such educational policies as the teaching force may advise. Even in filling vacancies in their own number, their action, he is inclined to think, should be subject to veto by two thirds of the full professors. Vacancies in the faculty should be filled by the faculty itself, subject to confirmation of the trustees merely *pro forma*, or to rejection in case there are not funds available for the required salary. The presidency should be abolished altogether, each faculty selecting its own executive head, who should be simply *primus inter pares*, and the mouthpiece of the faculty in its relations with the trustees. It is noticeable that the editor of the *Monthly*, in a paragraph relating to the recent conference of college and university trustees held at the installation of the presi-